

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 2-4, 7-12 and 17 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 13-16 have been amended to be in independent form without narrowing their scope.

This amendment changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 5-6 and 13-16 are now pending in this application.

Allowable subject matter

The Office Action stated on page 4, that claims “5-6 and 13-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.” Claims 13-16 have been amended to be in independent form including all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims, and are thus in *prima facie* condition for allowance. With respect to claims 5-6, applicants note that these claims are in independent form without amendment, and thus are also presumed to be in *prima facie* condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §§ 102 and 103

Claims 7 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 07-157338 (“JP ‘338”). Claims 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over JP ‘338 in view of JP 07-294706 (“JP ‘706”). Claims 2-4 and 11-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over JP ‘706 in view of JP ‘338. These rejections are moot in light of the cancellation of claims 2-4, 7-12 and 17.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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